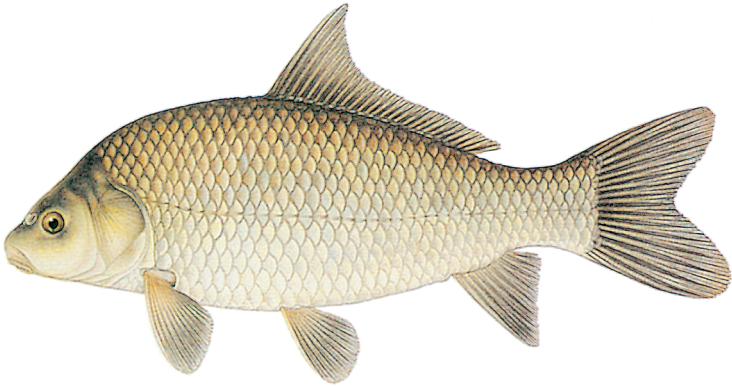


Smallmouth buffalo

Ictiobus bubalus



Similar Species: Bigmouth buffalo, common carp

Identification: Small mouth positioned near the underside of the head, no barbels or heavy spines like those of the common carp.

The smallmouth buffalo is found throughout most of the Mississippi River drainage. In South Dakota, it lives in the Missouri, James, and Big Sioux rivers. This fish seems to prefer clearer water than the bigmouth buffalo. The smallmouth buffalo is primarily a bottom feeder, eating invertebrates and detritus. Adult smallmouth buffalo commonly reach 10 to 20 pounds and occasionally attain 40 to 50 pounds.

